

Magazine Feature Section



Milady now thinks more of her shoes than her frocks.

Shoe designs this winter are more unusual than ever before and have attracted quite a bit of attention.

Russian boots, similar to those worn by the Cossacks, have found unusual favor with the women. Other designs include white kids with black buttons, gray shoes with black leather trimmings and altogether the most unusual variety of attractive shoes that the United States ever has known.

All in all the women with large feet are left to envy the women of China, who formerly were pitied because their feet were wrapped in cloth from the time of their birth and in this way were made small.

The present designs are such that they cannot fail to reveal the woman with large feet while they add an unusual attractiveness to those with tiny and dainty feet.

For many years the women of the United States have been expressing sympathy for the women of China—now they are envying them. Time was when the Caucasian might feel real sympathy for her Mongolian sister, who, according to tradition, must go about with her feet bound in cloth so that they might be prevented from being enlarged.

Since the craze for fancy shoes has come into vogue in the United States the majority of women, whose feet have shown an abnormal development, wish that the custom of the Chinese were observed in this country so that a dainty foot might be thrust into a number two and a half or a three size shoe instead of the owner of that foot having to call for a larger size footgear.

Women always have been more or less sensitive about the size of their feet. You may say a certain girl or blond uses rouge, that her hair is blamined or colored or that her eyebrows are penciled and get by with a mere "I should worry" shrug of the shoulders from the person you are criticizing.

By standing on a railroad track with the fast mail approaching or trying to pet a wild bull while you are wearing a red sweater is nothing compared with the angry reprisal that may be evoked by telling a girl or woman she has large feet.

Yet the present styles of footwear are such as to draw attention to the pedal extremities and to impress on the casual observer that one great point—her feet large or small.

MASCULINE SHOES

Several years ago fancy shoes were discarded for more masculine ones. Whether by accident or by design the masculine shoes failed to show the feminine foot or feet in their true proportion. There was

nothing artistic or exciting in observing a shoe such as is worn by a man. These shoes were deceptive. They might make a large foot appear small or a small foot appear large and yet the casual street-corner observer might not notice the difference.

Those were fashions that were unfair to the girl with the trim ankle and the small foot and yet days of triumph for the women whose feet were large. Tennis shoes were worn in summer and men's designs in winter and the ordinary man couldn't tell whether a foot was large or small because there were no standards on which to base his judgment.

If women adhered to those fashions of a year ago when shoes were devoid of the artistic and bore only the straight lines of the masculine shoe, there might be no worry today on the part of many women who would rather face a scandal than have their feet criticised as being big.

But the designers have called the attention of the male population again to the pedal extremities by originating and manufacturing dainty foot-wear that keeps the vision of the average male pedestrian, along any busy thoroughfare in any city in the United States, fastened to the ground rather than directed upward.

Never before have the shoe manufacturers put out more attractive or more diversified footwear than they are making at present. There is everything from the boot to the fancy slipper and they all are made small for in their dimintiveness lies their attractiveness.

NO END TO VARIETY.

The fur tops have done much to revolutionize foot-wear. Such shoes with their fancy adornment can hardly fail to attract attention. Another sign of the feminine yielding and favoritism for peculiar and ultra-fancy designs is that colors, shapes and styles that in years past have been frigidly refused are now very popular.

Gray goes with black buttons, black shoes with gray buttons, blue shoes with white buttons, white shoes with blue buttons and a hundred other combinations are in evidence on the streets of any big city.

A girl might as well be dressed in a mother Hubbard and be barefoot as to appear without a fancy and up-to-date pair of shoes. Her clothing is not noticed, the hat amounts to nothing, the fancy waist is unobserved and unheeded but her footgear is the point of concentration of her observers.

No longer do women observe that

their neighbor has on an out-of-date dress, that her hat is made over from last season and that her furs are moth-eaten. They judge the woman by her shoes. If they are of modern design then all is forgiven and her out-of-date clothing forgotten.

But it's really not a matter of wonder when one figures the great range of footgear they have on display this year. Never before has there been a more extensive or broader array than is on display this year. All the old rules have been toppled over and women "have gone mad" over fancy and ornate shoes.

Staid grandmothers even may be seen wearing the most ultra and flashiest designs while young girls appear in boots with fur tops and white laces and with the new shoes quite an expanse of silk hose is displayed, the same being a part and parcel of the new styles—neat shoes, fancy hostery?

From the point of the shoe dealer the new styles are the real thing for women will pay from \$8 to \$9 for a pair of shoes while before \$5 was considered the price of the best pair of footgear. It may be added that working girls, clinging as best they may to the tails of fashion, meet this rather exorbitant price for shoes when the sum they expend equals their two weeks' salary.

For women automobilists have been designed Cossack boots that extend almost to the knee, but that can be folded downward. They are unusually attractive, particularly on a dainty foot. They are of black and white kid.

ECONOMIC VALUE.

While the eyes of mankind are cast downward by the trend of these new styles one can but poorly guess the face of the wearer by the style and fanciness of her boots. Gray-haired women are wearing the most modish of shoes and the pretty girls are sporting boots.

The main economic beauty of the

entire fad is that shabby and out-of-date clothing are forgotten or unnoticed as long as the boots are modish and of attractive design. The latter have stolen trade from the milliner and the modiste as well as the hair-dresser, for in the present what matter it if the hair be wind blown, the hat out of style and the suit shiny and worn, are not the new shoes there to show that the wearer is a woman of style, that hers are the latest and the most up-to-date pair of boots on the market?

The designing of shoes is one of the greatest risks that a concern confronts. It may put out an excellent shoe, all of good leather and of a design that advance style notes would indicate as facing a future of popularity and yet this design, after several thousand pairs had been made, might prove a failure for the mere reason that women did not fancy them.

This year the leading shoe and leather gazettes confidently predicted that the styles would be very moderate and again along masculine lines. Several manufacturers dared to defy the predicted style rules and made a fortune at it while others, who made up thousands of pairs of conservative style shoes, lost money on their venture. They forgot that despite shoe journals the feminine fancy is the real thing to be consulted—that a New York firm may interpret the desires of their customers as they wish but that on occasion the designs that catch a woman's fancy are the ones that win.

Fashion, it seems in the view of those persons who devote their time to selling goods, depends solely upon a woman's desire to outdo her neighbor. Plain shoes along masculine lines are all right in instances but the wise manufacturers are the ones who have taken a chance on the theory that anything fancy attracts.

New York or Paris may lead the world in the creation of gowns or

hats, but when it comes to shoes everything is different. In fact the entire matter goes by opposites. In selecting an evening gown or a new hat each woman is anxious to get an exclusive garment that she is assured no one else of her set will appear in. But in the line of shoes there is always the desire not only to get shoes just as up-to-date and as flashy as those of one's neighbor, but to get a pair that have just a little more of eccentric design and exclusive pattern about them.

It may be considered a sartorial disgrace to find the cook or the maid or the washerwoman wearing a suit of the same design, color and lines as that worn by the mistress but when it comes to a question of shoes there is no hard and fast rule drawn.

WOMAN'S VIEWPOINT.

A woman may wear the same design of shoe as her maid and not feel an enmity either toward the maid or toward the firm that sold the shoes to her, while if her hat were duplicated the firm would never hear the end of the matter.

But even the most exacting must concede that shoes are worn primarily to protect the feet, and that design and fanciness are merely of secondary consideration. If a maid of the household finds the same design in a cheaper store and sports her new shoes on the street, her mistress will not feel the sting of wearing shoes of a similar design, for her chagrin can be well hidden in the remark that shoes as a matter of fact, are made to wear and that the design has but little to do with their usefulness.

However, the women with large feet have felt the sting of the new styles of shoes. She might conceal that she is bowlegged or knock-kneed, but the fact that her feet are

Season Has Brought Forth Most Amazing Styles In Foot-wear For Women—Russian Boots Are a New Fad For Feminine Automobilists Who Take Pleasure In Driving Their Cars During the Winter Months—Feet Viewed From a Psychological Standpoint

abnormally large is almost shouted to the world in the new boots.

Yet the woman faces two thorns of a dilemma—it is worse to be out of style than to have big feet, yet is apparently better not to effect the styles than to have the fact heralded that the owner's feet are of an unusual size for a woman.

Yet there is one way out of this dilemma. Shoes of a pretty design may cause observers to forget their consideration of the size of the feet in the beauty of shoes.

While women's shoes are advancing to the one extremity, men's foot-wear is becoming more conservative and adheres to the hard and fast rules of former seasons. For each notch of advance in feminine foot-wear it seems that the styles for men have dropped back a notch so that at present their shoes are more conservative than ever before.

So the women with large feet must suffer until styles change while those with dainty, tiny feet that fit well in the smallest of boots are in their present triumph. It seems to style designers that there ever must be a conflict between the two. If the shoes are the concentrating

force of the entire design, then the larger women must suffer while if the waist and the hat are the centers of adornment in clothing designs the smaller women and those with pretty feet must suffer.

So that it may be truthfully said that many are envying the women of China whose feet are kept small from having them bandaged from childhood.

For truly this is a season of small feet for women.

Try This, Sisters.

Things were slow in the city and Bronson was quite worried. So he felt it was about the last straw when his daughter told him that she had accepted the hand of George McCuthbert.

"I'm glad you're happy," he said, with a weary smile; "but I'm afraid that I really cannot stand the expense of a wedding just now."

The fair girl bent over him and stroked his furrowed brow.

"Don't worry, father; I'll try and put that right," she cooed. "I think I can scare George into proposing an elopement."